

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-337

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: DEMENTIA

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Please provide an update on dementia research, including how any funds transferred from Department of Health and Ageing (formerly in Program 4.6) are being used.

Answer:

- Ageing and health is one of National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) Major Health Issues under the current NHMRC Strategic Plan, with dementia and Alzheimer's Disease (AD) being key areas of strategic priority.
- Over the last decade there has been an almost three fold increase in the Commonwealth Government's investment in research in Australia, through grants administered by NHMRC, from \$262.4 million in 2002 to \$754.7 million in 2011. During the same period, funding for research in dementia and AD, provided by NHMRC, has increased more than eight fold, from \$2.8 million in 2002 to \$23.4 million in 2011.
- Funding for dementia and AD research covers a wide range of disciplines and funding schemes. A summary is provided below.

Partnership Centres

- On 24 December 2011 NHMRC announced that a Partnership Centre focusing on Cognitive and Related Functional Decline in the Elderly would be established by June 2012.
- This Centre is a partnership between NHMRC, Alzheimer's Australia, Brightwater Care Group, HammondCare Group and Helping Hand Aged Care and will provide up to \$5 million per year for 5 years.

## NHMRC Dementia Research

- NHMRC expenditure for dementia and AD-related research from 2007-2011 is set out in Table 1 and 2.
- While project grants are NHMRC's largest funding scheme, dementia and AD research is supported through other schemes, including Centres of Research Excellence and Program Grants.
- Funding of \$8.6 million for 2010-11 was transferred from Department of Health and Ageing to support dementia research. This funding is supporting three Dementia Collaborative Research Centres and will also support additional dementia research activities.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>Number of active grants</b>
2007	\$12,682,413	62
2008	\$17,257,965	87
2009	\$21,888,448	106
2010	\$22,845,342	119
2011	\$23,361,777	129

**Table 1:  
NHMRC  
expenditure  
for all  
dementia and  
Alzheimer's  
Disease  
research  
2007-11**

**Table 2:  
Annual expenditure for dementia and AD research – split by grant type (2007-11)**

<b>Grant type</b>	<b>Annual expenditure for mental health research</b>				
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Postgraduate Scholarships	\$128,442	\$93,452	\$88,541	\$107,976	\$159,500
Early Career Fellowships	\$477,200	\$381,693	\$748,116	\$760,002	\$1,009,139
Career Development Fellowships	\$271,500	\$333,500	\$198,500	\$269,498	\$492,519
Established Career Fellowships	\$732,250	\$694,000	\$1,124,250	\$1,348,839	\$2,550,472
Project Grants	\$4,994,365	\$7,575,207	\$9,771,803	\$11,560,666	\$12,273,579
Program Grants	\$3,425,735	\$3,485,037	\$3,485,837	\$3,700,455	\$4,023,000
Centres for Research Excellence				\$125,000	\$509,000
Strategic Awards	\$2,252,921	\$4,295,076	\$6,071,401	\$4,972,906	\$2,344,568
Enabling Grants	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,682,413</b>	<b>\$17,257,965</b>	<b>\$21,888,448</b>	<b>\$22,845,342</b>	<b>\$23,361,777</b>